

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /082 W

----- 005609

R 210905Z FEB 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3256

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH UR US IN

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR TOLSTIKOV

1. DURING INFORMAL SOCIAL GATHERING AT THE RESIDENCE
FEBRUARY 20 I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TOLSTIKOV AND HIS DEPUTY BREZHNEV ABOUT THE STATE OF PLAY
IN THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATIONS NOW THAT ILICHEV
HAS RETURNED TO PEKING. ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE VERY GUARDED
IN THEIR REMARKS, THEY CLEARLY WANTED TO PLAY DOWN THE
LIKELIHOOD OF ANY REAL PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. FOR
EXAMPLE, WHEN REMINDED THAT RUSSIANS HAD INDICATED EARLIER
THAT ILICHEV WOULD RETURN ONLY IF CHINESE HAD SOME NEW
PROPOSALS, BREZHNEV DENIED THAT THIS WAS SOVIET POSITION
AND CLAIMED THAT ILICHEV RETURNS TO PEKING FROM TIME TO
TIME JUST TO SEE IF CHINESE HAVE ANYTHING NEW TO PROPOSE.

2. WHEN I RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE NPC AND ITS IMPLICATIONS
FOR PRC FOREIGN POLICY, TOLSTIKOV REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT
THE U.S. HAD COME OFF VERY WELL IN CHOU'S WORK REPORT,
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"ALTHOUGH NOT AS GOOD AS THE JAPANESE." HE SAID HE SAW A

SLIGHT NEEDLING IN THE REFERENCE TO IMPLEMENTING THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, BUT IN GENERAL WE WERE TREATED VERY WELL IN CONTRAST WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

3. WITH PRC VICE MINISTER (AND NEW SINO-SOVIET BORDER NEGOTIATOR) HAN NIEN-LUNG DUE TO LEAVE FOR KATHMANDU VIA CALCUTTA, WE ASKED TOLSTIKOV WHETHER HE SAW ANY PROSPECT FOR IMPROVED SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS. HE REPLIED BY TICKING OFF THE SERIES OF RECENT GESTURES ON BOTH SIDES, CLEARLY SUGGESTING HE FEELS EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN PEKING AND NEW DELHI.
BUSH

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